

Message Text

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TAGS: PINT FP

SUBJ: FRENCH POLYNESIAN LEADER BLASTS FRENCH POLICIES

1. FIJI TIMES SEPT 11 CARRIED AAP STORY FROM PAPEETE (FRENCH POLYNESIA) REPORTING RECENT ATTACK ON FRENCH POLICIES TOWARD FRENCH POLYNESIA BY FRANCIS SANDFORD, WHO REPRESENTS FRENCH POLYNESIA IN FRENCH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

2. SANDFORD DEMANDED SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR FRENCH POLYNESIA SAYING THAT 85 PERCENT OF TAHITIAN PEOPLE SUPPORT THIS VIEW. "WE WANT ELECTED PEOPLE TO DECIDE OUR AFFAIRS, NOT FRENCH APPOINTEES." NOTING PRESIDENT DE GAULLE HAD ONCE CALLED FOR INDEPENDENCE FOR QUEBEC, "WHY NOT US?" HE URGED AS FIRST STEP IN SELF-GOVERNMENT HOME RULE WITH FRANCE RESPONSIBLE FOR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY. FULL INDEPENDENCE WOULD NOT COME UNTIL NEXT GENERATION, HE SAID. ALTHOUGH GOF HAS PROMISED NEW CONSTITUTION THIS YEAR, SANDFORD EXPRESSED DOUBT IT WOULD COME UP TO REQUIREMENTS OF MAJORITY.

3. ON FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING IN PACIFIC SANDFORD ATTACKED GOF FOR REFASING TO ALLOW WHAT HE CALLED INDEPENDENT INSPECTION OF TEST SITES AND SAID "IF THERE IS NO DANGER WHY NOT MAKE TESTS IN FRANCE OR IN CORSICA?"

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RM COMMENT: SANDFORD IS WELL KNOWN FOR HIS OPPOSITION TO FRENCH

NUCLEAR TESTING POLICIES AND HIS DEMENDS FOR SELF-DETERMINATION
FOR FRENCH POLYNESIA. HIS ARGUMENTS AGAINST NUCLEAR TESTING
PARALLEL THOSE OF OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDERS WHO HAVE QUESTIONED
FRENCH CONTENTION THAT TESTS ARE NOT HARMFUL.
SELDEN

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